

## Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 07BUDAPEST163, THE GREAT BARRIER BEEF: OPPOSITION MP'S "CIVIL

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#07BUDAPEST163**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">07BUDAPEST163</a>	<a href="#">2007-02-08 07:07</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Budapest</a>

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.spiegel.de/>

VZCZCXRO1464  
PP RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR  
DE RUEHUP #0163 0390707  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 080707Z FEB 07  
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0721  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 000163

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO NSC FOR ADAM STERLING

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/07/2012

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [HU](#) [KDEM](#) [ASEC](#)

SUBJECT: THE GREAT BARRIER BEEF: OPPOSITION MP'S "CIVIL  
DISOBEDIENCE"

Ref: a) budapest 135 and previous b) budapest daily

February 7

Classified By: POL/C ERIC V. GAUDIOSI; REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

¶1. (C) Opposition leader Viktor Orban lead approximately 100 MPs from his own FIDESZ party and their Christian Democrat (KDNP) coalition partner in an attempt to dismantle a security fence around the Parliament building February 2. Proceeding en masse from an opposition caucus, the MPs succeeded in disassembling a significant stretch of the metal barrier before the police reinforced their presence; police maintained a visible presence around Parliament through the night, with crowds estimated at several hundred - including a visible contingent of young skinheads - gathered in the evening. 20 arrests were reported in small-scale incidents during the week-end.

¶2. (C) Ambassador Foley met with FIDESZ MP (and Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee Chair) Zsolt Nemeth just after the initial incident. Coming directly from the Parliament (and an impromptu run-in with PM Gyurcsany), Nemeth proudly displayed a small cut on his hand from "trying to take apart the fence without the right tools." (Note: Another contact confided to us that Nemeth had cancelled a scheduled meeting with her by "calling from the fence with a cellphone in one hand and a wrench in the other." End Note.) He characterized FIDESZ's move as a blow for the right to assembly and commented that "even the liberals should support us." Echoing Orban's public statements, he discussed waiving his parliamentary immunity from prosecution on potential misdemeanor charges.

¶3. (C) The government strongly denounced the opposition's foray, with the police pressing formal charges (deemed incomplete by a Budapest court upon initial review) and the MFA circulating a note verbale to the diplomatic community condemning "the infraction of regulations in force by virtue of the law of the Republic of Hungary" and expressing "serious doubts" over the opposition's "commitment to the ideals and practice of democracy" beneath the "ill-fitting cover of civil disobedience" (full text faxed to EUR/SCE). President Solyom released a statement emphasizing that "the rule of law cannot be served by illegal methods."

¶4. (C) Public reaction was predictably mixed, with some of our interlocutors describing the opposition's action as "ridiculous" and others expressing concern that the government's response risked alienating the public. A great deal of attention has focused on the incident as a reflection of the dynamic within the opposition. We understand that the plan was closely held in Orban's inner circle and presented to the opposition caucus with no advance notice. Many, including conservative commentator Anita Orban, see the incident as a loyalty test, pointing out that prominent moderates including MPs Lajos Kosa, Janos Ader, and Antal Rogan were conspicuous in their absence (though Rogan has since released a statement of solidarity). A consistent critic of the FIDESZ leadership's "divorce" from center-right intellectuals during the party's shift toward populism, Orban believes this is the latest effort to whip up enthusiasm and enforce party discipline before Parliament reconvenes on February 12. Ultimately, however, she believes the party is "louder - but weaker - than the MSZP." Indeed, the Deputy of the KDNP Caucus became the first to break openly with the opposition's "excommunication" policy toward the Prime Minister, commenting publicly on February 6 that the time has come to work together with the government for the good of the nation.

¶5. (C) Comment: Although the ultimate disposition of the land around Parliament is an issue, the opposition's latest actions add little to either the substance or the tone of the debate. With the recent release of a lengthy report on the fall demonstrations which highlights FIDESZ's links to the violent protestors (ref b), their latest act of "civil disobedience" will likely underscore questions regarding their commitment to the rule of law. Much as we saw Viktor Orban at his best in a recent meeting with Ambassadors (ref a), this escapade shows that he is still equally liable to play with fire. End Comment.

